

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following section heading beginning at page 1, line 5.

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the section heading beginning at page 1, line 17, with the following rewritten section heading:

-- ~~BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION~~DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Instead of the oxide-coated iron powder or the resin-coated iron powder, for example, a resin-coated carrier of soft ferrite, such as Cu-Zn ferrite or Ni-Zn ferrite, has been used, as described in ~~a patent document 1~~ (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 48774/1984). Because the resin-coated carrier using soft ferrite as a core material has low magnetization, a head of the developing magnetic brush can be made soft, and hence, reproducibility of vertical and horizontal lines of the resulting image becomes good. Further, because the resin-coated carrier using soft ferrite as a core material has high dielectric breakdown voltage, leakage of electric charge rarely occurs and an image of high quality can be formed. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Examples of such carriers include Li-Mg-Ca type ferrite described in ~~a patent document 2~~ (Japanese Patent No. 3238006), Mn-Mg-Sr type ferrite described in ~~a patent document 3~~ (Japanese Patent No. 3243376) and a magnetite granulation type carrier described in ~~a patent document 4~~ (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 458/1985). --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~In a patent document 5~~ (Japanese Patent No. 3168377), discloses a developing system using an alternating electric field ~~is disclosed~~, and it is described that by virtue of the developing system using an alternating electric field, uniformity of the solid portion can be enhanced particularly in the full color machine having many image portions. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- With regard to this point, a countermeasure that the accuracy of classification of the carrier is enhanced to decrease a content of carrier particles of small size and thereby sharpen the particle size distribution of the carrier is taken in a patent document 6 (Japanese Patent No. 3029180). However, adhesion of the carrier to the photosensitive member cannot be completely prevented only by controlling the particle size of the carrier. In particular, development of a compact and high-speed electrophotographic apparatus (i.e., digital copying machine, printer) has been rapidly promoted, but it becomes very difficult that the developing agent follows such development of the apparatus, and in the existing circumstances, a result of forming an image with no white spot has not been obtained. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In a patent document 8 (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 51563/1994) and a patent document 9 (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 35231/1994), it is described disclose that in order to perform faithful image development, it is effective to weaken magnetization of a carrier to about 30 to 150 emu/cm³, and by the use of a carrier of such weak magnetization, the magnetic brush becomes soft in the magnetic field at the development pole and an image faithful to the latent image can be obtained. It is also described that rapid rise of magnetization at 0 to 100 Oe makes it possible to strengthen magnetization at 0 to 300 Oe, and thereby carrier adhesion can be reduced with enhancing image quality. Even by the use of this method, however, strength of the magnetization is not sufficient especially in the high-speed full color machine recently used. Therefore, carrier adhesion often takes place and image defects due to white spots are produced. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In a patent document 10 (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 181744/1995), it is described discloses that a carrier for an electrophotographic developing agent, which is obtained by surface treating the carrier core particles with a coupling agent when the surfaces of the carrier core particles are coated with a partial hydrolysis sol obtained from Zr alkoxide or the like and cured, has an extremely rigid coating layer, so that the layer

does not peel off during the period of service and a stable image can be formed. In the recent compact developing apparatus suffering heavy developing stress, however, the carrier core material is exposed by peeling of the coating layer in the printing impression process, and the resistance of the carrier core material due to the exposure causes fog or change of image density. Thus, sufficient durability has not been obtained. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~In a patent document 11 (Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 197214/1993), it is described discloses~~ that a carrier coated with a polyolefin resin containing carbon black, which is obtained by contacting a surface of a carrier core material with a high-activity catalyst component consisting of at least Ti or Zr in a hydrocarbon solvent and polymerizing an olefin monomer onto the surface, is excellent in durability, resistance to spent and resistance to environment. The carrier described in this publication, however, is a coated carrier obtained by coating the surface of the carrier core material with a coating resin, and in a high-speed apparatus suffering heavy stress, the carrier does not exhibit sufficient durability because of peeling of the coating resin. --

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 8.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 10.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 11.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 12.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 14.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 15.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 16.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 18.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 20.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 13 line 22.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 14 line 1.

Please replace the section heading beginning at page 14, line 4, with the following rewritten section heading:

-- OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION --

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 17 line 17.

Application No. Not Yet Assigned
Paper Dated: February 6, 2004
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of N/A
Attorney Docket No. 1217-040224

Customer No. 28289

- Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 17 line 18.
- Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 17 line 19.
- Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 17 line 20.
- Please delete the section heading beginning at page 48 line 2.